

OPINION 1230

NOTROPIS RAFINESQUE, 1818 (PISCES):
THE GENDER IS MASCULINE

RULING.—(1) Under the plenary powers the gender of the generic name *Notropis* Rafinesque, 1818 is hereby ruled to be masculine.

(2) The generic name *Notropis* Rafinesque, 1818 (gender, by the ruling under the plenary powers in (1) above, masculine) type species, by monotypy, *Notropis atherinoides* Rafinesque, 1818, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2170.

(3) The specific name *atherinoides* Rafinesque, 1818, as published in the binomen *Notropis atherinoides*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2827.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.)663

An application for a ruling that the gender of the generic name *Notropis* Rafinesque, 1818, is masculine was first received from Dr Reeve M. Bailey and Dr Robert R. Miller (*University of Michigan*) on 20 March 1952. This was published in October 1954 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 9, pp. 272–274. A counter proposal that the correct feminine gender of the name be accepted, by the late Dr Carl Hubbs and Mr W.I. Follett, was published on pp. 274–275. The alternatives were voted on under the Three-Month Rule in Voting Paper (55)3. At the close of the voting period on 19 August 1955 there were 13 votes for Alternative A (the Bailey–Miller proposals) and 11 for Alternative B (the Hubbs–Follett proposals). Faced with a majority less than a two-thirds majority in a case requesting the use of the plenary powers, the then Secretary to the Commission, Mr Hemming, decided that it would be best to wait until the International Congress of Zoology (London, 1958) should have clarified the views of zoologists in general on the relative merits of usage and strict linguistic rules.

The case was not re-examined until August 1977 when I presented a fresh draft to Dr Bailey for his approval. An agreed text was sent to the printer on 27 September 1977 and published on 28 February 1978 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 34, pp. 240–242. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the statutory serials, to eight general and two specialist periodicals. The application was supported by 41 zoologists from the United States and Canada whose names were circulated to the Commission. No adverse comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 25 February 1982 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1982)¹ for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 34, p. 242. At the close of the voting period on 25 May 1982 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes — twenty (20) received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Alvarado, Mroczkowski, Starobogatov, Willink, Tortonese, Trjapitzin, Vokes, Halvorsen, Habe, Cogger, Brinck, Bayer, Welch, Sabrosky, Nye, Lehtinen, Heppell, Kraus

Negative Votes — one (1): Hahn.

Corliss returned a late affirmative vote. Ride was on leave of absence. No voting papers were returned by Bernardi, Binder and Dupuis.

Hahn commented: 'The Greek word "tropis" is unequivocally feminine. This is a fact and the Commission should state it, not the reverse. I cannot see that much confusion would arise if *Notropis* is ruled to be feminine. Only specific names ending in *-us* would be changed. Those ending in *-is*, nouns in apposition and names based on personal names would not.'

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

atherinoides, *Notropis*, Rafinesque, 1818, *Amer. mon. Mag. crit. Rev.*, vol. 2, p. 204

Notropis Rafinesque, 1818, *Amer. mon. Mag. crit. Rev.*, vol. 2, p. 204.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the votes cast on V.P.(82)¹ were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion Number 1230.

R.V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

9 June 1982